

BIBLE INSPIRATION - "THY WORD IS TRUTH"

I. INTRODUCTION.

- A. The Bible Claims To Be Inspired: *"Thus Saith The Lord"* Is Found Over Two Thousand Times On Its Pages.
- B. Basically There Are Two Different Approaches To The Inspiration Of The Bible.
 1. *The non-Biblical* approach.
 - a. The Bible is merely a "good book" which contains some wonderful poetry and excellent moral ethics.
 - b. The Bible is inspired only as man's writings are inspired (e.g. Shakespeare).
 - c. The Bible is inspired only in its overall tenor: *"The Bible is not the Word of God; it simply contains the Word of God."*
 2. *The Biblical* approach.
 - a. *"All scripture is inspired (Lit. "God-breathed") by God..." (2 Tim. 3:16)*
 - b. This is what we would call *"plenary verbal inspiration."*
 - 1) Plenary - *"Complete, full; extending to every part."*
 - 2) Verbal - *"Pertaining to words."*
 - 3) Inspiration - *"To breathe."*
 - c. Therefore, *"plenary verbal inspiration"* is *"God-breathed completely, inspired in its entirety."*
 - 1) In other words, *"plenary verbal inspiration"* deals with *God-given words.*

- 2) *These words, in every part of the original manuscripts of the Bible, were given by inspiration of God through His Holy Spirit of truth.*

NOTE: This is not the "Verbal Dictation Theory." (See Supplement, "Non-Biblical Theories of Inspiration.")

AIM.

- A. To Examine The Biblical Claims For "*Plenary Verbal Inspiration.*"
- B. To Have A Better Appreciation And Respect For The Bible: *God's "Word Is Truth."* (John 17:17)

OUTLINE.

A. AVOWED ATTESTATION OF BIBLICAL INSPIRATION.

1. "*And God spake all these words...*" (Ex. 20:1)
2. "*The Spirit of Jehovah spake...*" (2 Sam. 23:2)
3. "*I (Jehovah) have put my words in thy mouth.*" (Jer. 1:9; Hag. 1:13)
4. "*...which was spoken by the Lord...*" (Matt. 1:22)
5. "*...the law of Moses, the prophets, the psalms ...*" (Luke 24:44)
6. "*...they (inspired writings) are the commandments of the Lord.*" (1 Cor. 14:37)
7. "*...not after man...but through revelation of Jesus Christ.*" (Gal. 1:11f)

NOTE: Read carefully the following passages:

(1) 1 Peter 1:10-12.

(2) 1 Cor. 2:6-16.

(3) John 14:26; 15:26; 16:7-13.

B. ANALYTICAL AFFIRMATION OF BIBLICAL INSPIRATION.

1. 2 Peter 1:19-21 (12-21)

- a. The apostle denies the use of "*cunningly devised fables*" in proclaiming the Lord Jesus Christ: "...we were eyewitnesses..." (ver. 16)
- b. The apostle avows that we have "*the word of prophecy more sure.*" (ver. 19a)
 - 1) The word was *sure*, for the disciples were "eyewitnesses of His (Jesus) majesty" - The voice of Jesus Christ the Son of God.
 - 2) The word was *more sure*, for the disciples had heard God the Father declare, "*This is My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased*" - The voice of God the Father.
- c. The apostle affirms certain things concerning the word of prophecy. (vs. 19b-21)
 - 1) The word is to be "*heeded.*"
 - 2) The word is "*as a lamp shining in a dark place.*"
 - 3) The word is "*not of private interpretation.*"
 - 4) The word is *not the result of human investigation.*
 - 5) The word is *not merely the product of the writer's own thought.*
 - 6) The word was produced by men who were "*being moved (Lit. 'carried or borne') by the Holy Spirit.*"
 - 7) These men "*spake from God*": His word is *sure and trustworthy!*

NOTE: This passage forever settles the question concerning the authority of the Bible, God's word, for it states 1) how the word *did not* originate, and 2) how the word *did* originate!

2. *Hebrews 1:1-2 (2:1-4)*

- a. The inspired writer claims that "God spoke" of old time "...in the prophets" (the past time).
- b. The inspired writer claims that "God spoke" at "the end of these days" (i.e. Old Testament days) "in His Son" (the then present time).
- c. The inspired writer claims that *God continued to speak* through the first century apostles and writers. (*Heb. 2:1-4*)

NOTE: According to Jesus' own words, the Holy Spirit would guide the *apostles* "into all the truth..." (*John 16:13*) Therefore, by the time the last apostle had died "all truth" had been declared. (We have "all truth" today.)

3. *2 Timothy 3:16-17.*

- a. The apostle's *subject* - "all scripture."
- b. The apostle's *statements* concerning the subject.
 - 1) "All scripture" is given by the inspiration of God. (*ver. 16a*)
 - 2) "All scripture" is profitable. (*ver. 16b*)
 - a) Profitable for *teaching*.
 - b) Profitable for *reproof*.
 - c) Profitable for *correction*.
 - d) Profitable for *instruction*.
 - 3) "All scripture" has a purpose. (*ver. 17*)
 - a) That the man of God *may be complete*.
 - b) That the man of God *may be completely furnished unto every good work*.

- c. "All scripture inspired of God" is affirmation to the "plenary verbal inspiration" of the Bible.

IV. CONCLUSION.

- A. "Sanctify Them In The Truth: Thy Word Is Truth."
(John 17:17)
- B. "And Now I Commend You To God, And To The Word Of His Grace, Which Is Able To Build You Up, And To Give You The Inheritance Among All Them That Are Sanctified." (Acts 20:32 cf. John 12:48-50 And 1 Pet. 1:22-25)